

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 INR-10 ACDA-12 AID-05 L-03
SS-15 MCE-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 NSC-05 SP-02
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P R 061607Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1359
INFO SECDEF WASHDC/ISA/DSAA//
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE/ECJ4/7-SACM//
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CDRUSASAC ALEX VA/DRSAC-MM/LA//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TUNIS 4018

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR P&B DATA

REF: A. STATE 207984, DTG 310241Z AUG 77

B. TUNIS 7673, DTG 251536Z OCT 77

C. USLOT 311115Z MAY 78.

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED THIS DATE, THROUGH DIPLOMATIC NOTE, FORMAL REQUEST FROM GOVERNMENT OF TUNISIA FOR P&B DATA FOR VARIOUS MATERIEL GOT CONSIDERING PURCHASING IN REMAINING TWO YEARS OF FIVE YEAR MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM. THE LIST OF MATERIEL, BELOW, IS BY PRIORITY.

2. A. 12 M577A1 CP CARRIERS, INCLUDING:

- 1) AN/VRC 46 RADIOS
- 2) CSP
- 3) SPECIAL TOOLS

B. 10 M578VTR'S, INCLUDING:

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- 1) AN/VRC 46 RADIOS
- 2) CSP
- 3) SPECIAL TOOLS

C. 70 M113A1 APC'S, INCLUDING:

- 1) AN/VRC 46 RADIOS

- 2) 2,400 RNDs .50 CAL MG AMMO PER APC AS BASIC LOAD.
- 3) CSP
- 4) SPECIAL TOOLS

D. 30 M151A2 MOUNTED TOW LAUNCHERS, COMPRISING
30 TOW LAUNCHERS, 30 M151A2 VEHS FOR LAUNCHERS,
30 M151A2 VEHS AS MISSILE CARRIERS AND INCLUDING:

- 1) 600 TOW MISSILES
- 2) 60 TOW PRACTICE MISSILES
- 3) 5 M-70 TOW TRNG SETS
- 4) RADIO MOUNTS FOR VEHS
- 5) CSP FOR TWO YEAR PERIOD
- 6) SPECIAL TOOLS

E. 34 AN/PPS 5B RADAR SETS, INCLUDING CSP
AND SPECIAL TOOLS

F. 12 M106A1 4.2" MORTAR CARRIERS WITH MORTARS AND
INCLUDING:

- 1) TOTAL 2,880 MORTAR RNDs TYPE M453 HE W/FUZES MTSQ.
- 2) AN/VRC 46 RADIOS
- 3) CSP
- 4) SPECIAL TOOLS

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G. 6 M114 155MM HOWITZERS (TOWED), INCLUDING TOTAL
660 PROJECTILES TYPE HE.

H. 160 .50 CAL MACHINE GUNS WITH MOUNTS FOR M151A2
VEHS, AND BASIC LOAD OF AMMO.

I. 582 M151A2 (1/4 TON) VEHS, INCLUDING:

- 1) RADIO MOUNTS
- 2) 24 VOLT BATTERIES
- 3) STATIC SUPPRESSORS
- 4) CSP
- 5) SPECIAL TOOLS

J. 60 AN/VRC 43 RADIOS WITH INSTALLATION KITS.

K. 235 AN/VRC 12 RADIOS WITH INSTALLATION KITS.

L. 39 AN/PRC-74 RADIO SETS

M. 28 AN/GRC-106A RADIO SETS

N. 10 AN/MRC-138 RADIO SETS

O. ONE 1 KILOWATT RADIO SET

P. 78 RADIO RECEIVERS AS UPDATED REPLACEMENTS FOR AN/GRR 5.

3. SEE REF B FOR DISCUSSION OF TUNSIAN ARMY MATERIAL CURRENTLY IN INVENTORY, AND FOR DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL EXTERNAL MILITARY THREAT TO TUNISIA.

4. P&B DATA REQUESTS FOR THE M577A1 CP CARRIERS, M578 VTR'S, M113A1 APC, AND M106 A1 MORTAR CARRIERS ARE INTERRELATED. IF ACQUIRED, THE TUNISIAN ARMY INTENDS TO USE THE ABOVE EQUIPMENT FOR A PARTIAL
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MECHANIZATION OF FOUR INFANTRY REGIMENTS (U.S. BATTALIONS) ORGANIC TO THEIR TWO COMBINED ARMS BRIGADES (ONE EXISTING, THE OTHER BEING FORMED). AT PRESENT, INFANTRY UNITS ARE MOTORIZED. MECHANIZATION OF INFANTRY ELEMENTS WILL COMPLEMENT RECENT TUNISIAN PURCHASE OF CHAPARRAL AD MISSILE SYSTEM, AND ANTICIPATED PURCHASE OF M113A1 MOUNTED TOW MISSILE SYSTEM (FMS CASE DA-TU-UCA, REF B). LOGISTICALLY, ALL OF THE ABOVE CAN BE MAINTAINED PROPERLY BY THE TN ARMY. THEY HAVE THE SAME CHASSIS AS THE CHAPARRAL SYSTEM, FOR WHICH TUNISIA HAS REQUESTED MAINTENANCE DEPOT EQUIPMENT (REF C). WITH LIMITED ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT, THE TN ARMY MAINTENANCE DEPOT WILL HAVE SUFFICIENT MAINTENANCE CAPABILITY FOR ALL OF THE REQUESTED MATERIAL HAVING THE COMMON M113 CHASSIS.

5. THE REQUEST FOR 30 M151A2 MOUNTED TOW LAUNCHERS AND MISSILES IS INTENDED FOR USE BY THE SAHARAN TERRITORIAL REGIMENT (RTS). THE RTS PRESENTLY IS EQUIPPED WITH SMALL ARMS WITH VIRTUALLY NO ANTI-ARMOR CAPABILITY, SEVERELY LIMITING THEIR ABILITY TO PERFORM AS BORDER SECURITY AND FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE ALONG 1,200 KMS OF BORDER WITH LIBYA AND ALGERIA. MOST OF THE TERRAIN UNDER RTS RESPONSIBILITY IS IMPRACTICAL FOR MECHANIZED TRANSPORT. SEE REF B FOR DISCUSSION OF TN ARMY REQUEST FOR TOW MISSILE SYSTEM P&B DATA.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TUNIS 4018

6. THE SIX 155MM HOWITZERS (TOWED) IS TO AUGMENT THE
18 GRANT AID 155MM HOWITZERS (TOWED), PRESENTLY FORMED
AS THE SOLE GS ARTILLERY UNIT IN THE TN ARMY.

7. THE 582 M151A2 1/4 TON VEHICLES ARE TO REPLACE, ON
A ONE-FOR-ONE BASIS, MOST OF THE M38 1/4 TON VEHICLES
PROVIDED TO TUNISIA UNDER GRANT AID. THE LATTER ARE BECOMMING
UNECONOMICAL TO MAINTAIN DESPITE THE EFFORTS OF
AN EXCELLENT VEHICLE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM. THE .50
CALIBER MACHINE GUNS ARE FOR USE WITH THE M151A2
VEHICLES, REPLACING GRANT AID .30 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS.

8. THE RADAR AND RADIO SETS FOR WHICH P&B DATA IS RE-
QUESTED IS A FURTHER MODERNIZATION OF, AND ADDITION TO,
EXISTING EQUIPMENT (THE TN ARMY HAS NO SHORT RANGE
RADAR CAPABILITY). THE RADIO SETS REQUESTED CAN BE
READILY INTEGRATED WITH PRESENT COMMUNICATIONS
EQUIPMENT, AND THE RADIO SETS TO BE DELIVERED WITH
THE CHAPARRAL AND M113A1 MOUNTED TOW SYSTEMS.

9. FROM A LOGISTICS POINT OF VIEW, ALL OF THE
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EQUIPMENT LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 2 CAN BE MAINTAINED
WITH EXISTING FACILITIES AND WITH THE ADDITIONAL
EQUIPMENT INTENDED FOR THE CHAPARRAL AND TOW MISSILE
SYSTEMS (FMS CASES UAU AND UCA).

10. US PERSONNEL SUPPORT FOR THE ABOVE PURCHASES
WILL BE MINIMAL AND PROBABLY WILL AMOUNT TO NO MORE
THAN SHORT DURATION TRIPS BY MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS AND

QUALITY ASSURANCE TEAMS.

11. THE GOT EXPECTS TO PAY FOR THE FMS PURCHASES FROM FMS CREDIT FUNDS. SALE OF THE EQUIPMENT IN PARA 2 IS NOT EXPECTED TO ADVERSELY AFFECT THE TUNISIAN ECONOMY. EXPENDITURES FOR THE MILITARY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM ARE FORESEEN IN THE APPROVED 5-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR 1976-80. ACQUISITION OF THE EQUIPMENT WILL NOT REQUIRE A MAJOR INCREASE IN TN ARMY PERSONNEL.

12. THE P&B REQUEST WAS BY GOT INITIATIVE.

13. TUNISIA DOES NOT HAVE A HISTORY OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS, NOR DOES THE TN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT PLAY ANY POLITICAL ROLE. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TN MOD AND THE US LIAISON OFFICE-TUNISIA, HAVE BEEN EXCELLENT AND NO PROBLEMS ARE FORESEEN IN MONITORING THE USE OF THE LISTED EQUIPMENT.

14. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE US GOVT APPROVE THE SALE OF THE ABOVE MATERIAL SHOULD THE GOT REQUEST ITS PURCHASE.
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